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Letter dated 30 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint communiqué of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China, dated 16 May 2008 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 47, 56, 110 and 121, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint communiqué of the Meeting of Celso Amorim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Sergei Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of India, and Yang Jiechi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

16 May 2008

The Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) held their meeting in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16 May 2008.

1. They emphasized the prospects for the BRIC dialogue based on mutual trust and respect, common interests and coincidence or similarity of approaches towards the pressing problems of global development.

2. The Ministers agreed that building a more democratic international system founded on the rule of law and multilateral diplomacy is an imperative of our time. They reaffirmed the commitment of the BRIC countries to work together and with other States in order to strengthen international security and stability and to ensure equal development opportunities for all countries.

3. The Ministers reiterated that today's world order should be based on the rule of international law and the strengthening of multilateralism with the United Nations playing the central role. They reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations with a view to making it more efficient so that it can deal more effectively with the current global challenges. The Ministers of Russia and China reiterated that their countries attach great importance to the status of India and Brazil in international affairs, and understand and support India's and Brazil's aspirations to play a more prominent role in the United Nations.

4. The Ministers noted that sustainable development of the global economy in the long term as well as finding solutions to the acute global problems of our time, such as poverty, hunger and diseases, are possible only if due account is taken of the interests of all nations and within a just global economic system. Among other issues, they discussed the current global food crisis. The Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China welcomed the initiative of Brazil in organizing a meeting of ministers of economic affairs and/or finance of the BRIC countries to discuss global economic and financial issues.

5. The Ministers expressed their strong commitment to multilateral diplomacy in dealing with common challenges to international security. They reiterated their support for political and diplomatic efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in international relations. A cooperative approach to international security is required that takes into account the concerns of all and addresses them through dialogue and in a spirit of understanding. The Ministers emphasized that disarmament and

non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing. They also agreed on the need for multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space.

6. The Ministers unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed for whatever purposes. They reiterated their perception that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism. They particularly highlighted the United Nations cooperation framework and the need for all Member States to implement United Nations conventions and United Nations Security Council resolutions on fighting terrorism.

The Ministers emphasized the importance of implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects and expressed their opinion that all Member States should make concerted efforts towards the speedy finalization under United Nations auspices of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

7. The Ministers noted a close interconnection between energy security, socio-economic development and environmental protection. They reaffirmed their commitment to multilateral efforts aimed at reaching an optimum balance of interests between producers, transit States and consumers of energy resources. In this respect the parties emphasized the need to support programmes to increase access to energy and energy efficiency as well as the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy, including biofuels, compatible with sustainable development.

8. The Ministers spoke in favour of strengthening international cooperation to counter climate change in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. They expressed their desire to work closely together in order to carry out the Bali commitments.

9. The Ministers spoke in favour of intensifying the dialogue to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, primarily the Millennium Development Goals, on the basis of global partnership. They support international efforts to combat hunger and poverty.

10. The Ministers noted that South-South cooperation is an important element of international efforts in the field of development. It was emphasized that South-South cooperation does not replace but rather complements the traditional forms of development assistance.

11. The Ministers looked forward to continued cooperation between the Group of Eight and its traditional dialogue partners.

12. The Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia and India reaffirmed their countries' support of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

13. The Ministers reached an understanding to hold the next BRIC ministerial meeting at the margins of the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, in September 2008. The next stand-alone BRIC ministerial meeting will be hosted by India.